

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a pleasure to share with you the outcome of our recent Catholic School Inspection. It is a credit to the entire community – families, students, staff and our parishes – to be graded 'Outstanding' across all areas. When you read the report, you will see that it is the students that bring a strong sense of joy and vibrancy to the St Leonard's community.

I would encourage you to take your time reading the report. The inspectors have captured the depth and diversity of our school community and the unique feel of St Leonard's. This is evident when the report speaks of the 'profound sense of belonging at St Leonard's, where every member of the school community is known, loved and valued'; with the school offering 'exceptional pastoral care' and 'a deep sense of belonging.'

Everyone plays their part in the creation of such a strong community. It is humbling to hear that staff describe St Leonard's as 'a place we adore'; that 'Governors are unwavering in their commitment to the school's mission'; that student's 'shape the future direction and ethos of the community'; and that our 'parish priests provide steadfast, constant support.'

The vibrancy and variety of enrichment and charity works in such a strong community is recognised, including 'fundraising activities such as staff karaoke, Christmas bauble dedications and tutor-led events raising significant sums for Cafod, including funding a village's water supply for a decade' and that 'engagement in the Faith in Action and Pope John Paul II Awards is exceptional.'

The role of Religious Education across the school is also recognised and how it 'makes a significant contribution to their intellectual, moral and spiritual formation, embodying the school's mission to form the whole person in truth and love'. Our Head of RE, Mrs Harrison, has only been in post as Head of Department since September, and it is a mark of her leadership that the inspectors recognised her 'clear direction, rooted in a vision to inspire a deep love of the subject and foster ambition for all.'

For a number of years, we have developed our own St Leonard's prayer curriculum. Our desire is to give all our students a deep and varied prayer experience in their time at St Leonard's. It is good to know that students love this experience with one student commenting, 'prayer sets them up for the day.' Students go on to describe our chapel as an 'oasis' and a 'sanctuary of peace.'

I will close by quoting what, to me, is the most profound line of the report from a comment by one of our students:

"This school has made me become a better person."

Whilst we do not know which student said this, we do know that everyone - teachers, support staff, families and students - have all taken their part in building such a powerful and transformative school community.

Today is the feast of St Leonard and it is a happy coincidence that we share this report with you today and a great way to celebrate our feast day!

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Kind regards,



David Simmons
Head of School